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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 4 October 1978.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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NATO: Arms Control Issues

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//NATO disarmament experts today begin their semiannual meeting at Alliance headquarters outside Brussels. A discussion of the many arms control issues that will be raised at
the current session of the UN General Assembly will probably
dominate the two-day session. The conferees will also review
the General Assembly's special session on disarmament, held
last May and June, and consider the crowded calendar of disarmament negotiations through 1980.//

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//The West Germans are seeking the support of other NATO members for a draft General Assembly resolution endorsing regional confidence-building measures worldwide, along the lines of those already agreed to by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Separate consultations among disarmament experts from the European Community have produced broad support for the West German initiative.//

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//A key subject will be the security guarantees that nuclear powers and their allies can offer to states without nuclear weapons. The Third World remains interested in such arrangements, and the Soviets have again offered a proposal to the General Assembly. The EC's disarmament experts think the Soviet guarantees are filled with loopholes, and the talks within NATO will focus on providing assurances more attractive to the Third World states than those of the Soviets.//

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//The meeting probably will also consider the UK's proposal for organizational changes to enhance consultation within NATO on arms control issues. Discussion of the initiative within the North Atlantic Council last week produced wide support for more frequent, substantive exchanges on arms control subjects, but there was little enthusiasm for altering the existing structure.

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	USSR-FRANCE: Gromyko Visit
25X1	Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko will try to convey an image of forward movement in relations with France during his three-day visit there, which begins on 25 October. The Soviet press is again carrying favorable commentary on French policies, and a Soviet Air Force squadron made a goodwill visit to France early in September.
25X1	The Soviet approach to France follows President Brezhnev's successful visit to West Germany in June. In general, the USSR is seeking to improve its relations with any West European state that agrees that detente in the region is essential but is endangered because there has been no major diplomatic breakthrough. The Soviets seem willing to defer progress on resolving hard bilateral problems under this new approach—at least temporarily.
25X1	The USSR has lately demonstrated a willingness to finesse a number of difficult issues that several months ago seemed likely to sour its entire relationship with France. Talks on the two countries' policies in Africa resolved little, but both sides have apparently left behind the mutual bitterness that resulted from the French intervention in Zaire earlier this year.
25X1	The Soviets have been advocating increased bilateral trade and, although quick results are unlikely, this may soothe French disappointment over the slow growth in economic relations. Apparently dormant for the time being are French proposals for European disarmament extending "to the Urals," which the USSR opposes.
25X1	France does not want Soviet relations with West Germany to be closer than Soviet-French relations, and the Soviets will presumably try to exploit this, although recent successful meetings between French President Giscard and West German Chancellor Schmidt may reduce the opportunity to introduce wedges between the two countries.

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disrupt relations between the USSR and France, despite both sides' desire for progress. The Soviets have repeatedly indicated that they would view such a transaction as an unfriendly

act, but a sale is unlikely before Gromyko's visit.

Proposed French weapons sales to China could seriously

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received widespread criticism from African countries over its continued association with Denard, and his prominent role in the islands' government led to the exclusion of the Comorian delegation from the summit_of the Organization of African

Unity in July.

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